

Four Years: “Preach Christ Until Further Notice”

- **2012**
 - The Foursquare Gospel: Saviour, Healer, Baptist, Coming King
- **2013**
 - Jesus...
 - Paid it all
 - the Baptised
 - In the Wilderness
 - Begins to preach
 - Begins His Team
 - Risen Indeed

Four Years: “Preach Christ Until Further Notice”

- **2014**
 - Eyes on Jesus
 - KINGdom
 - The ‘I AM’ statements of Jesus
- **2015**
 - The ‘I Will’ statements of Jesus,
 - The Armour of Christ
 - Christ Before Christ
- **2016**
 - Christ before Christ Continued!

Christ B.C.



Christ B.C.

1. Walking to Emmaus
2. The Beginning is Christ
3. Isaac: No Laughing Matter
4. Christ the Stone... The Cornerstone
5. Christ: Hold Fast
6. Christ Heaven's Captain: Joahua
7. Finding Christ in Noah's Ark
8. Mephibosheth: Time to Come Home
9. Restoration Project: Hosea
10. Great Light
11. Whostory: Psalm 22
12. Jubilee
13. Shepherd King
14. The River of Life
15. Joseph: Pictures of Christ
16. Christ in Song of Songs
17. Rest Area / Ancient Way
18. Christ Wrestling: Jacob
19. 7 Swims for Naaman
20. Passover
21. Big Fish, Little Fish: Jonah
22. Just the Job
23. Job-tastic
24. I will Pour Out
25. The King Our Righteousness (Jer.)
26. He Knows How it Feels – Is 53: 1-3
27. His Suffering, Our Salvation – Is 53: 4-6
28. Our Silent Saviour – Is 53:7-12

He Knows HOW _{it} Feels

- If God can take the torture of the cross and make it the redemption for all creation, then we can have faith that the pain we experience today has redemptive purpose for us and / or others

His suffering,
Our **salvation**

Our Silent Saviour

...in His **love** for us, the **Father** wants the
best for us, just as He did for **Jesus**

Time To Think **Big!**

Tent-stretching

A blue and white striped tent is shown against a black background. The tent is illuminated from below, creating a strong contrast and highlighting its structure. The stripes are diagonal, and the tent appears to be a classic circus-style tent.

Isaiah 54

1 “Sing, O barren one, who did not bear;
break forth into singing and cry aloud,
you who have not been in labour!

For the children of the desolate one will be more
than the children of her who is married,” says the Lord.

**2 “Enlarge the place of your tent,
and let the curtains of your habitations be stretched out;
do not hold back; lengthen your cords
and strengthen your stakes.**

3 For you will spread abroad to the right and to the left,
and your offspring will possess the nations
and will people the desolate cities.



Spread Out! Think Big!

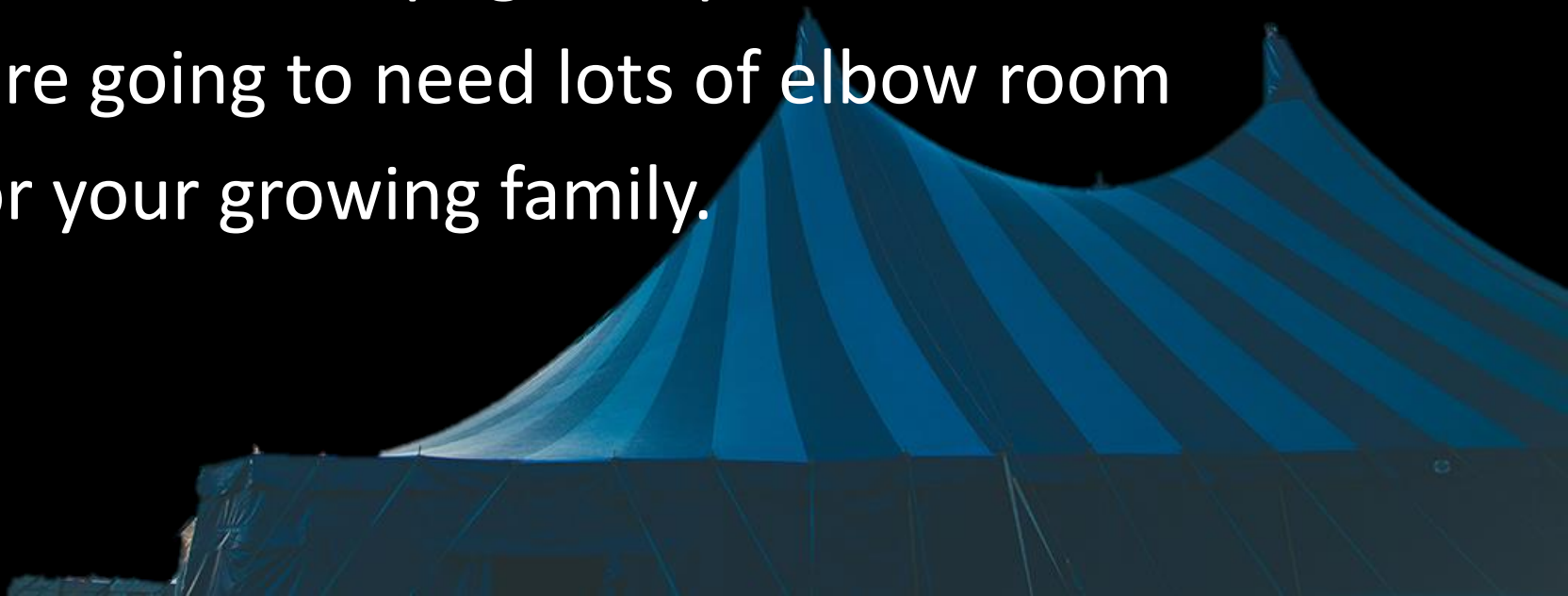
Clear lots of ground for your tents!

Make your tents large. Spread out! Think big!

Use plenty of rope,

drive the tent pegs deep.

You're going to need lots of elbow room
for your growing family.



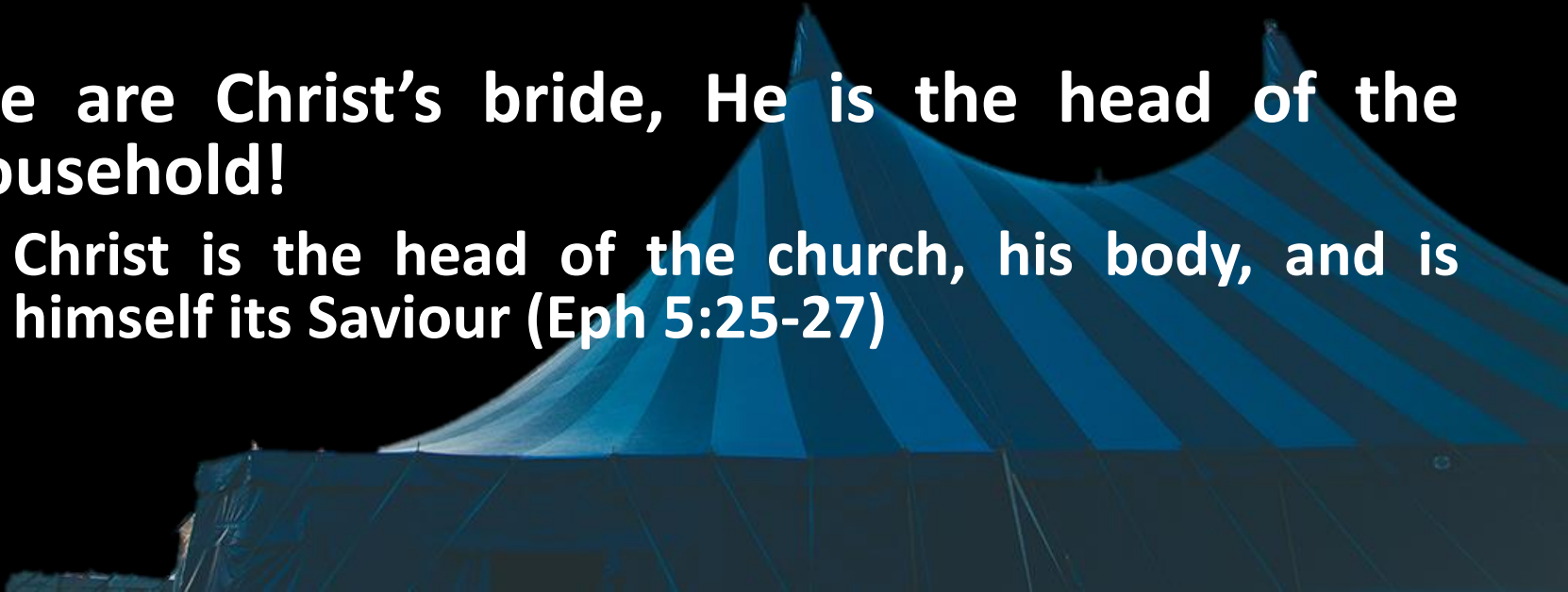
Looking Ahead

- **The instruction and preparation comes before the need is realised**
 - Increase the room in your tent because you are going to need it!
 - Obedience and faith making room for the miracle



House Hunters

- A growing family needs a bigger home
- We are not just responding to our current challenges, we are preparing for those who are going to join our family
- We are Christ's bride, He is the head of the household!
 - Christ is the head of the church, his body, and is himself its Saviour (Eph 5:25-27)



Isaiah 54: 5

**For your Maker is your husband,
the Lord of hosts is his name;
and the Holy One of Israel is your Redeemer,
the God of the whole earth he is called.**



Isaiah 54:17

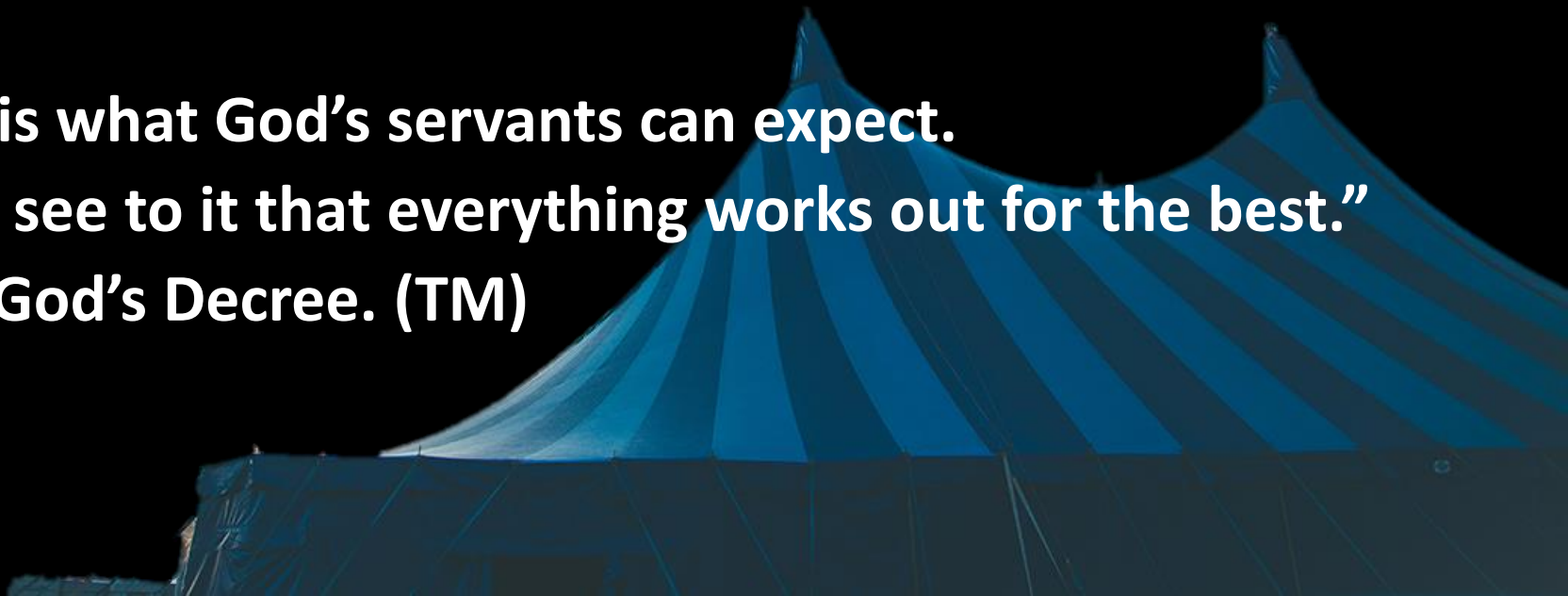
**No weapon that is fashioned against you shall succeed,
and you shall confute every tongue that rises against
you in judgement.**

**This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord
and their vindication from me, declares the Lord.”**

This is what God’s servants can expect.

”I’ll see to it that everything works out for the best.”

God’s Decree. (TM)



From the Ashes

- 'This chapter's exuberance, peace and security spring from the dereliction and death just described' (New Bible Commentary, IVP, p663)
- The death of Christ is the life of the church and of all that truly belong to it; and therefore very fitly, after the prophet had foretold the sufferings of Christ, he foretells the flourishing of the church, which was part of his glory, and that exaltation of him which was the reward of his humiliation (Matthew Henry)

The Tent Frame

- From the grip of pain, death and despair, Christ rises in victory and establishes His church
- The challenges we face have the potential to grow us and enable us to increase our capacity
- Perhaps some of us have been through challenging seasons in preparation for what God will do.
- **Isaiah 52:13** Behold, my servant shall act wisely; he shall be high and lifted up, and shall be exalted.
 - The word of the Lord cutting through the circumstances

Paul's Perspective

Gal 4:27 For it is written,

“Rejoice, O barren one who does not bear;

break forth and cry aloud, you who are not in labour!

For the children of the desolate one will be more
than those of the one who has a husband.”

28 Now you, brothers, like Isaac, are children of promise. **29** But just as at that time he who was born according to the flesh persecuted him who was born according to the Spirit, so also it is now. **30** But what does the Scripture say? “Cast out the slave woman and her son, for the son of the slave woman shall not inherit with the son of the free woman.” **31** So, brothers, we are not children of the slave but of the free woman.

- A clear connection with the Church and the ‘new birth’ described

He Will Build His Church

- Not Bricks and Mortar

YOU & I...

And...



Our Purpose





We are **MOVING**
Our Sunday Celebrations!

We need space for our growing church family so from September 2016 (exact date TBC), our services will be held at The Morlan Centre, Queens Road.



Every Sunday
10:30am

The BIGGER Picture

- **Larger space for our main meeting**
 - Room to grow
 - **Opportunity for a fresh season**
 - New impetus and vision
 - Opportunities to serve
 - **Better accessibility**
 - Recognisable, visitor friendly location
 - Better disability access
 - Limited parking
- 

Our Stretch

- **Financial**
 - Portable Sound & Visual Gear (Approx £1500-£2000)
 - Portable Ministries Resources (Unknown)
 - Rent & extra costs (£100 p/w)
 - General Income (current shortfall approx £600 p/m)
 - **Practical Challenges**
 - Time
 - Breakout Spaces
 - Occasional Sundays
 - **People**
 - Set-up Teams (Sign up today)
 - Increase: Welcome, Technical, Children's & Youth ministry and refreshments Teams (approach leaders)
- 

A Faith Mission

Luke 9:3 He told them: "Take nothing for the journey – no staff, no bag, no bread, no money, no extra shirt"

- **When we respond to God's instruction with faith, He will meet our needs**
 - **Our fears and challenges are nothing to Him!**
 - **Sing O barren woman!!! BEFORE the time to give birth**
- 

YOUR Stretch?

- **Prayer**
- **Patience**
- **Partnership**
- **Passion**
- **Punctuality**
- **Peers**
- **Provide**
- **Praise now in faith of what is to come**





References / Bibliography

- **Matthew Henry. 'Matthew Henry's Commentary on the Whole Bible,' Marshall, Morgan and Scot Ltd, 1960.**
- **Carson, France, Motyer, Wenham. 'New Bible Commentary. InterVarsity Press, 1994.**
- **<http://www.freeimages.com>**
- **<https://pixabay.com/en/>**

